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Letter dated 7 November 2008 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a report on the work of the Security Council during the presidency of China in October 2008 (see annex). The document was prepared under my own responsibility, following consultations with other members of the Security Council. I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

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Annex to the letter dated 7 November 2008 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of China (October 2008)

Introduction

Under the presidency of China, the Security Council dealt with a wide range of regional issues, including Afghanistan, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Georgia, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, the Middle East, Somalia and the Sudan, and general issues, namely, women and peace and security and post-conflict peacebuilding. The Council held 23 meetings and 9 consultations of the whole, during which five resolutions and five presidential statements were adopted.

Africa

Côte d'Ivoire

On 27 October, at an open meeting, the Council heard a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Côte d'Ivoire, Choi Young-Jin, on the latest developments in the peace process in Côte d'Ivoire. During the consultations of the whole that followed, members heard another briefing, on the sanctions review, by the Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1572 (2004). The Council members called on all parties concerned to fully implement the Ouagadougou Agreement, and appealed to the international community to continue to support Côte d'Ivoire.

On 29 October, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1842 (2008), by which it renewed sanctions measures and the mandate of the Group of Experts until 31 October 2009.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

On 3 October, in consultations of the whole, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Alan Doss, briefed the Council on the latest developments in the Goma and Nairobi peace processes in that country. He called for a ceasefire between the Nkunda dissident militias and the Government forces and an implementation of the disengagement plan by the parties concerned.

On 21 October, the Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2008/38), in which the Council members urged all the parties to the Goma and Nairobi processes to abide by the agreements, and strongly supported the work of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC).

On 28 October, in consultations of the whole, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Alain Le Roy, briefed the Council on the security situation in North Kivu province of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The

Council members expressed their serious concern over the recent fighting in the region and its humanitarian consequences.

On 29 October, the Under-Secretary-General gave an urgent briefing on the escalation of hostilities in North Kivu. The Council then adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2008/40), in which the Council members urged all signatories to the Goma and Nairobi processes to implement their commitments effectively and in good faith, and expressed its full support for MONUC.

Guinea-Bissau

On 7 October, the Council held a debate to hear briefings by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, B. Lynn Pascoe, and Ambassador Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti of Brazil, in her capacity as the Chairperson of the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission, on the situation in Guinea-Bissau, in particular on preparations for the legislative elections to be held in November 2008 and the continued growth in drug trafficking as well as organized crime. The representative of Guinea-Bissau also delivered a statement. Members of the Council encouraged all parties concerned to maintain the dialogue and cooperation and to ensure a stable environment for a free and fair legislative election.

On 15 October, the Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2008/37), in which it called on donors to continue to provide resources for the legislative elections to be held on 16 November, and called upon the international community to cooperate actively with Guinea-Bissau in its efforts to fight against drug trafficking as well as organized crime.

Somalia

On 7 October, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1838 (2008), by which it called upon States interested in the security of maritime activities to take part actively in the fight against piracy on the high seas off the coast of Somalia, in particular by deploying naval vessels and military aircraft, in accordance with international law, as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982. It also urged that States and regional organizations, in conformity with the provisions of resolution 1814 (2008), continue to take action to protect the maritime convoys of the World Food Programme.

On 9 October, during consultations of the whole, the Council heard a briefing from Ambassador Dumisani Kumalo of South Africa, in his capacity as Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 751 (1992), on the work of the Monitoring Group on Somalia, in accordance with paragraph 3 (h) of its resolution 1811 (2008).

On 30 October, the Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2008/41), in which it condemned in the strongest terms the terrorist suicide attacks that occurred in the towns of Hargeysa and Bosasso in Somalia on 29 October 2008.

Sudan

On 3 October, the Council heard a briefing by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Edmond Mulet, on the crash of a Mi-8 helicopter

hired by the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) in southern Darfur on 29 September, which was still under investigation.

On 15 October, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1841 (2008), by which it extended until 15 October 2009 the mandate of the Panel of Experts of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005).

On 28 October, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Alain Le Roy, and the Under-Secretary-General for Field Support, Susana Malcorra, briefed the Council at an open meeting on the current security, political and humanitarian situation in Darfur as well as the deployment of UNAMID. During the consultations of the whole that followed, the Council members expressed their strong support for the acceleration of the deployment of UNAMID and the promotion of the political process in Darfur.

Peace and security in Africa

On 23 October, upon the request of the Government of Djibouti, the Council convened a meeting to hear a briefing from the President of Djibouti, Ismail Omar Guelleh, on the situation between Djibouti and Eritrea. The representative of Eritrea also participated in the meeting and delivered a statement. The Council members expressed their concern over the situation between Djibouti and Eritrea and committed themselves to assisting the parties concerned in finding a sustainable solution through peaceful means, in order to avoid another war in the region of the Horn of Africa. They also supported the Secretary-General, the African Union and the League of Arab States in continuing to use their good offices to promote a peaceful solution and encouraged both parties to cooperate.

Americas

Haiti

On 8 October, the Council held a private meeting with the countries contributing troops to the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). Subsequently, the Council heard a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Haiti and Head of MINUSTAH, Hédi Annabi, on the situation in Haiti and the work done by MINUSTAH. Following the briefing, members of the Council held a consultation and discussed issues raised in the Secretary-General's report (S/2008/586). Council members expressed their concern over severe damage caused by hurricanes in Haiti and the consequences for the stabilization process. Council members acknowledged the crucial role of MINUSTAH and expressed support for the Mission.

On 14 October, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1840 (2008), by which it extended the mandate of MINUSTAH until 15 October 2009.

Asia

Afghanistan

On 14 October, the Council held a debate to hear a briefing from the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan, Kai Eide, on the latest

situation in Afghanistan and the work of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA). The Council also heard statements by the representatives of Afghanistan, Germany, India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway and Pakistan, at their request. While expressing concern over the security and humanitarian situation in Afghanistan, members of the Council welcomed the progress made by the Government, with support from the international community. They stressed that more resources were necessary to meet the strengthened mandate of UNAMA and to achieve defined priorities, and supported a holistic approach to existing challenges in Afghanistan.

Europe

Georgia

On 9 October, the Council held a private meeting with the countries contributing troops to the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG). The Council then heard a briefing by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations on the latest developments in Georgia. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNOMIG, Johan Verbeke, also briefed the Council on his recent visit to Tbilisi and Sukhumi. Subsequently, during consultations of the whole, members of the Council expressed their views on the situation on the ground. Following the consultations, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1839 (2008), by which it extended the mandate of the Mission until 15 February 2009.

On 27 October, during consultations of the whole, the Council heard a briefing from the Acting Director of the Europe and Latin America Division of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, David Harland, on recent developments.

Middle East

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

On 22 October, the Council heard a briefing on the Middle East from the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs. He told the Council, inter alia, that despite ongoing efforts by the parties concerned, the situation on the ground was not improving "in the way that is required" to ensure a durable settlement. He also hoped that, notwithstanding the transition currently under way, the Israel-Palestinian negotiations would not only continue but intensify until the end of the year, within the Annapolis framework. During consultations of the whole, many members of the Council reaffirmed their support for the continuation of Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, and expressed the wish that the United Nations would, as appropriate, play a greater role in support of the peace process. Members of the Council also emphasized that the international community could not lose sight of the humanitarian situation on the ground.

Lebanon

On 30 October, the Council heard a briefing on the Middle East from the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the implementation of resolution 1559 (2004), Terje Rød-Larsen. He presented to the Council the eighth semi-annual report

of the Secretary-General (S/2008/654). Noting that several provisions of resolution 1559 (2004) had been implemented, he emphasized the importance of the comprehensive implementation of the resolution. Following the briefing, the Council held consultations of the whole, during which the members of the Council welcomed the progress to date in the implementation of the resolution. They also expected that the resolution would be implemented comprehensively. Members also encouraged all Lebanese parties to fully engage in the national dialogue process and to commit themselves to achieving meaningful progress.

General issues

Women and peace and security

On 29 October, the Council held an open debate on women and peace and security, at which the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations presented an update on progress in the contribution of women to the prevention and resolution of conflicts and peacebuilding. The Council was also briefed by the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, Rachel Mayanja, on the Secretary-General's latest report (S/2008/622). At the end of the debate, the Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2008/39), in which it recognized the need to facilitate the full and effective participation of women in peace processes and peacebuilding, and urged Member States and international, regional and subregional organizations to take measures to increase the participation of women in conflict prevention, conflict resolution and peacebuilding. It also called upon the Secretary-General to appoint more women to pursue good offices on his behalf.

Post-conflict peacebuilding

On 21 October, during an open debate on post-conflict peacebuilding, the Council invited the Chairperson of the Peacebuilding Commission, Yukio Takasu, to introduce the report of the Peacebuilding Commission on its second session (S/2008/417). The Council also heard statements by the representatives of Bangladesh, El Salvador, Guinea-Bissau, the Netherlands, Norway and Sierra Leone, at their request. The Council members commended the Commission and the Peacebuilding Support Office for their work in the second year of operation. They encouraged the Commission to further improve its working methods, in order to assist the countries concerned in delivering peace dividends on the ground. They supported the Commission's intention to strengthen its coordination and cooperation with relevant stakeholders, to better implement its mandates. The Council members also extended their support for strengthening interaction between the Council and the Commission.

Non-proliferation/Democratic People's Republic of Korea

On 3 October, in consultations of the whole, the Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1718 (2006), Ambassador Giulio Terzi di Sant' Agata of Italy, presented his 90-day report in accordance with paragraph 12 (g) of resolution 1718 (2006), which covered the work of the Committee during the period from 3 July to 2 October.

International Court of Justice

On 28 October, the Council, at a private meeting, heard a briefing from the President of the International Court of Justice, Judge Rosalyn Higgins, on the work of the Court in relation to the work of the Council.

Report of the Security Council to the General Assembly

On 30 October, the Council held a public meeting to adopt its annual report to the General Assembly, covering the period from 1 August 2007 to 31 July 2008. The introduction to the report was prepared by the delegation of Viet Nam, as presidency of the Council in July 2008. The body of the report was prepared by the Secretariat. This decision was reflected in a note (S/2008/678) by the President of the Council.